

## Use of Lasers - Frequently Asked Questions

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**Who regulates the use of “prescriptive” laser devices?**

We are working with the Department of Health (DOH) to adopt rules that regulate the use of prescriptive laser devices known as laser, light, radiofrequency, and plasma devices (LLRP).

**Who can use prescriptive laser devices?**

- A physician or physician’s assistant.
- An esthetician.
  - However, as of March 2007 the use of “prescriptive” lasers can only be used under the supervision of a physician or physician’s assistant.
- Possibly other health care professionals.
  - Please check with the Department of Health.

**Where can I view DOH and DOL rules regarding the use of “prescriptive” LLRP devices?**

To view DOH rules go to their website at:

<http://www.leg.wa.gov/documents/wsr/2006/15/06-15-130.htm>

To view DOL rules go to our website at:

<http://www.dol.wa.gov/business/cosmetology/rulechange.html>

**When will the rules become effective?**

March 2007

**What are “prescriptive” laser devices**

They are devices defined by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as “prescriptive” devices. They include LLRP devices that penetrate the skin and alter human tissue.

**How do I know if I am using a “prescriptive” device?**

To find out if you are using a “prescriptive” device go to the FDA website at:  
<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfPCD/classification.cfm>

1. Click on the link that says 510(k).
2. Click on “go to simple search.”
3. Under “search for” type the description of your product, i.e. laser.
4. Click on search.
5. This should display a list of products.

6. Under the product column, click on the product you wish to view.
7. Click on the “summary” link.
8. On the last page you should find “Indications for Use.” On this page you will find whether the device is for “Prescription Use.”

**Where can I find information on getting a health care professional license?**

Information can be found on the DOH website at [www.doh.wa.gov](http://www.doh.wa.gov) or call Beverly A. Thomas, Program Manager, at (360) 236-4788.

**Where can I find information on getting an esthetician license?**

Information can be found on our website at [www.dol.wa.gov/business/cosmetology](http://www.dol.wa.gov/business/cosmetology) or call the Cosmetology Program at (360) 664-6626.

**How long does it take to get an esthetician license?**

Schools require at least 600 hours of training.

**Can I transfer my hours of work experience to a licensed school in Washington State to get an esthetician license?**

No. Hours obtained through work are not transferable.

- Only those hours received in a licensed school in Washington State are transferable.

**Where can I find a list of schools that offer an esthetics course?**

You can search for a licensed school on our website at:  
<https://fortress.wa.gov/dol/dolprod/bpdLicenseQuery/>

**Where does it say that estheticians can use laser devices?**

Under RCW 18.16.020 it states in part that the “practice of esthetics” is the care of the skin by use of any device or equipment, electrical or otherwise.

- However, as of March 2007, an esthetician will only be able to use these devices under the supervision of a physician or physician’s assistant.

**What happens if I don’t comply with the new rules?**

- DOH will take action on an individual for practicing medicine without a license.
- We will take action on an esthetician practicing outside the scope of their license.